
Introduced Version

HOUSE RESOLUTION No. ____

Introduced by: Duncan

A RESOLUTION recognizing Greek Independence Day.

Whereas, On March 25, 1821, the Feast Day of the Annunciation, the Greek nation reclaimed its ancient heritage as the "Cradle of Democracy" by overthrowing the yoke of oppression that had enslaved its people since the fall of Constantinople in 1453;

Whereas, Conquered by the Ottoman Turks in the 15th century, Greece waged a successful War of Independence (1821-1829) and reinstituted a democratic form of government;

Whereas, It was the genius of Greece that first ignited the flame of freedom in the 6th and 5th centuries B.C. when Athens

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introduced the idea of a direct representative government to the world, thus ushering in a Golden Age of Art, architecture, philosophy, and drama under such giants of western history as Pericles, Sophocles, Euripedes, Socrates, and Plato;

Whereas, The Founding Fathers of the United States of America drew extensively upon the political experience and philosophy of ancient Greece in forming our representative democracy;

Whereas, It is proper and desirable to celebrate with the Greek people and to reaffirm the democratic principles from which our two great nations were born;

Whereas, President George W. Bush, in recognizing Greek Independence Day, said "Greece and America have been firm allies in the great struggles for liberty. Americans will always remember Greek heroism and Greek sacrifice for the sake of liberty and as the 21st century dawns, Greece and America once again stand united; this time in the fight against terrorism. The United States deeply appreciates the role Greece is playing in the war against terror. America and Greece are strong allies, and we're strategic partners.";

Whereas, Greece is only one of three nations in the world, beyond the former British Empire, that has been allied with the United States in every major international conflict in the last 100 years;

Whereas, United States Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs Nicholas Burns thanked the Greek government and its people for their help in Afghanistan;

Whereas, The combat engineers and medical personnel Greece sent to Afghanistan have played a crucial role in defeating terrorism and helping to create a stable democracy in Afghanistan;

Whereas, Historically the Greeks have been persecuted by the Turkish government, and Greeks living in Turkey have had their basic rights and freedoms taken away from them, which is a form of persecution that continues today; and



Whereas, The government of Turkey refuses to recognize the rights and religious freedoms of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, head of the Greek Orthodox Christian Church, which is a minority religion in Turkey: Therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the General Assembly of the State of Indiana:

- 1 SECTION 1. That the Indiana House of Representatives celebrates
- 2 March 25, 2007, as the 186th anniversary of Greek Independence,
- 3 reaffirms Indiana's abiding commitment to the magnificent principles
- 4 of democracy and religious freedom, and urges Turkey to respect the
- 5 rights and religious freedoms of the Ecumenical Patriarchate.
- 6 SECTION 2. That the Principal Clerk of the House of
- 7 Representatives transmit copies of this resolution to Holy Trinity
- 8 Church of Indianapolis, St. Demetrios Church of Hammond, Holy
- 9 Trinity Church of Fort Wayne, Sts. Constantine and Helen Cathedral
- 10 of Merrillville, St. George Greek Orthodox Church of Schererville, St.
- 11 Andrew Church of South Bend, St. Iakovos Church of Valparaiso, the
- 12 Indiana congressional delegation, and Archbishop Demetrios of the
- 13 Greek Archdiocese of America.

